Resolution 31-11

A Resolution to Establish a Professional Clothing Closet to Provide Free Business Attire for Students

Authored by: Matthew McDaniel, Terry College of Business; Senator Sabina Ashurova, First-Year

Sponsored by: Senator Patrick Femia, Franklin College of Arts and Sciences; Senator Allison Fine, Campus Life for Access and Opportunity; Senator Jan Joho, At-Large for Student Affairs; Senator Nadav Ribak, Franklin College of Arts and Sciences; Senator Spencer Sumner, First Year; Senator Mennah Abdelwahab, First Year; Senator Josh Howe, First Year; Senator Christian Carlow, First Year; Senator Casey Smith, First Year; Senator Kat Otto, First Year; Senator Shanise Johnson, First Year; Senator Samuel Bryant, At-Large for Student Affairs;

WHEREAS, the University of Georgia considers itself a leader in the world of higher education and strives to provide students with equal opportunities and the tools necessary to succeed; and,

WHEREAS, of the 27,547 undergraduate students at the University of Georgia approximately 82% (22,583 in total) receive some form of grant aid, meaning extracurricular financial commitments may be difficult to fulfill;¹ and,

WHEREAS, 20% of first-years (1,064 total) were awarded scholarships at the University of Georgia, averaging $5,179 per person. This ranks in the middle 20th percentile of all schools in the country;¹ and,

WHEREAS, in addition to scholarships, 19% of first-years (1,007 total) received a federal grant, for about $4,690 per person;¹and,

WHEREAS, through the electronically distributed student survey, 93% of students stated they plan to attend engagements which require professional dress;² and,

¹ University of Georgia, Office of Student Financial Aid, Costs, https://osfa.uga.edu/costs/
² See Appendix A
WHEREAS, 35% stated they do not have access to professional dress attire and 2% stated they prefer not to answer; and,

WHEREAS, 97% of students surveyed stated they see a need in the creation of an on-campus resource for students to rent professional clothing on an as-needed basis; and,

WHEREAS, business professional attire, necessary for professional environments and opportunities such as job interviews, often requires substantial financial investment; and,

WHEREAS, despite the University of Georgia’s recognition of a need to access discounted business professional attire—demonstrated through the existing partnership with JCPenney—based on the survey results of 359 University of Georgia students, 40% claimed they were unaware of the initiative and 20% stated they were aware but did not participate; and,

WHEREAS, the University Career Center hosts 'Dawgs Suit Up' twice a year where UGA students are able to purchase professional business attire at discounted rates up to 70% off from the JCPenney Athens store. This initiative provides only need-based scholarships for students on an application basis; and,

WHEREAS, students should not be denied an opportunity to succeed on the basis of their ability to purchase business professional clothing; and,

WHEREAS, a demonstration of a significant need for this initiative may result in a more permanent resource for future students; and,

WHEREAS, ten of the fourteen schools in the Southeastern Conference and several peer, aspirational, and in-state institutions have already established similar professional clothing closet programs; and,

THEREFORE LET IT BE RESOLVED, that the 31st Administration of the Student Government Association affirms the prerogative of the authors of this legislation, in conjunction with relevant and interested parties, to submit a formal proposal to the Career Center Director, Mr. Scott Williams, and relevant parties, on behalf of the student body encouraging the development of a Professional Clothing Closet at the University of Georgia; and,

______________________________________________
3 See Appendix B
LET IT BE FINALLY RESOLVED, the Student Government Association, upon establishment of a Professional Clothing Closet, will work to support the efforts of the initiative, including but not limited to staffing, promotion, and potential clothing drives.
1. - Have you or do you plan to attend interviews or engagements which require professional dress?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Answer</th>
<th>%</th>
<th>Total Responses</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>93.04%</td>
<td>334</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Maybe</td>
<td>5.57%</td>
<td>20</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>No</td>
<td>1.39%</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>100%</td>
<td>359</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
2. - Do you have access to professional dress attire (including but not limited to dress shoes, skirts/pants, blazers, blouses/shirts, or neckwear)?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Answer</th>
<th>%</th>
<th>Total Responses</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>62.67%</td>
<td>225</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>No</td>
<td>35.10%</td>
<td>126</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Prefer Not to Answer</td>
<td>2.23%</td>
<td>8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>100%</td>
<td>359</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
3. - Do you wish UGA provided an on-campus resource for students to rent free professional dress attire on an as-needed basis?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Answer</th>
<th>%</th>
<th>Total Responses</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>96.65%</td>
<td>346</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>No</td>
<td>3.35%</td>
<td>12</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>100%</td>
<td>358</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
4. - Have you or do you plan to participate in the UGA Career Center’s Dawgs Suit Up event at JCPenney?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Answer</th>
<th>%</th>
<th>Total Responses</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>41.23%</td>
<td>148</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>No</td>
<td>19.50%</td>
<td>70</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>What is that?</td>
<td>39.28%</td>
<td>141</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>100%</td>
<td>359</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
APPENDIX B: Institutions with Professional Clothing Closets

- Armstrong University, [Career Services: Annual Clothing Closet | Armstrong University](https://www.armstrong.edu/careerservices/annual-clothing-closet)
- Arkansas State University, [https://www.astate.edu/college/business/student-services-center/career-closet.dot](https://www.astate.edu/college/business/student-services-center/career-closet.dot)
- Baylor University, [https://www.baylor.edu/cpd/index.php?id=947722](https://www.baylor.edu/cpd/index.php?id=947722)
- Cal-Poly Technical Institute, [https://careerservices.calpoly.edu/explore-services/trending/professional-clothing-closet](https://careerservices.calpoly.edu/explore-services/trending/professional-clothing-closet)
- Cal-Poly Technical Institute Pomona, [https://www.cpp.edu/~career/student/clothes-closet.shtml](https://www.cpp.edu/~career/student/clothes-closet.shtml)
- California State University San Marcos, [https://news.csusm.edu/cougar-career-closet/](https://news.csusm.edu/cougar-career-closet/)
- Columbia University, [https://www.careereducation.columbia.edu/programs/clothing-closet](https://www.careereducation.columbia.edu/programs/clothing-closet)
- Duquesne, [Career Closet | Duquesne University](https://www.duquesne.edu/careers/career-development/career-closet)
- Emory University, [http://www.career.emory.edu/about/programs_scholarships/clothing_closet/index.html](http://www.career.emory.edu/about/programs_scholarships/clothing_closet/index.html)
- Florida Atlantic University, [http://www.fau.edu/newsdesk/articles/OWL.clothes-closet.php](http://www.fau.edu/newsdesk/articles/OWL.clothes-closet.php)
- Florida International University, [https://news.fiu.edu/2017/02/new-career-closet-needs-donations/108432](https://news.fiu.edu/2017/02/new-career-closet-needs-donations/108432)
- Florida State University, [https://www.career.fsu.edu/ClothingCloset](https://www.career.fsu.edu/ClothingCloset)
- Georgia Institute of Technology, [http://campuscloset.gatech.edu](http://campuscloset.gatech.edu)
- Kansas State, [https://www.k-state.edu/careercenter/students/attire/](https://www.k-state.edu/careercenter/students/attire/)
- Kansas University, [https://career.ku.edu/clothing](https://career.ku.edu/clothing)
- Kent State, [Kent State's College of Business Administration Launches Career Closet](https://www.mtsu.edu/marketing/raiders_closet.php)
- Middle Tennessee State University, [http://www.mtsu.edu/marketing/raiders_closet.php](http://www.mtsu.edu/marketing/raiders_closet.php)
- Morgan State University, [http://www.morgan.edu/student_affairs/center_for_career_development/for_students/career_closet.html](http://www.morgan.edu/student_affairs/center_for_career_development/for_students/career_closet.html)
- North Carolina State University, [https://careers.dasa.ncsu.edu/about/wolfpack-styled-professional-clothing-closet/](https://careers.dasa.ncsu.edu/about/wolfpack-styled-professional-clothing-closet/)
- Oklahoma State University, [Career Closet - Spears School of Business](https://www.okstate.edu/careercenter/)
- Oregon State University, [http://experience.oregonstate.edu/resources/bennys-business-closet](http://experience.oregonstate.edu/resources/bennys-business-closet)
- Princeton University, [https://careerservices.princeton.edu/undergraduate-students/programs-meetups-events/tiger-threads](https://careerservices.princeton.edu/undergraduate-students/programs-meetups-events/tiger-threads)
- Purdue University, [https://www.cco.purdue.edu/Students/WhatWeOffer](https://www.cco.purdue.edu/Students/WhatWeOffer)
- Southern University, [http://www_subr.edu/index.cfm/page/1483/n/1290](http://www_subr.edu/index.cfm/page/1483/n/1290)
- Texas A&M, [https://aglifesciences.tamu.edu/blog/2016/01/29/texas-am-career-closet/](https://aglifesciences.tamu.edu/blog/2016/01/29/texas-am-career-closet/)
- Texas State University, [http://www.careerservices.txstate.edu/Career-Closet-.html](http://www.careerservices.txstate.edu/Career-Closet-.html)
- University of Alabama, [https://career.sa.ua.edu/resources/crimson-career-closet/](https://career.sa.ua.edu/resources/crimson-career-closet/)
- University of Alaska Anchorage, [https://www.uaa.alaska.edu/students/career/student/clothes-closet.cshtml](https://www.uaa.alaska.edu/students/career/student/clothes-closet.cshtml)
- University of Arkansas, [https://walton.uark.edu/career/closet.php](https://walton.uark.edu/career/closet.php)
- University of Arkansas-Little Rock, [http://ualr.edu/cals/2016/02/03/trojan-career-closet-drive/](http://ualr.edu/cals/2016/02/03/trojan-career-closet-drive/)
- University of Florida, [https://careercloset.dso.ufl.edu/resources/university-of-florida-resources/](https://careercloset.dso.ufl.edu/resources/university-of-florida-resources/)
- University of Illinois, [https://www.careercenter.illinois.edu/service/career-closet](https://www.careercenter.illinois.edu/service/career-closet)
- University of Miami, [http://hireacane.miami.edu/resources/dress-for-success/index.html](http://hireacane.miami.edu/resources/dress-for-success/index.html)
- University of Michigan, [https://careercenter.umich.edu/content/clothes-closet](https://careercenter.umich.edu/content/clothes-closet)
- University of Pittsburgh, [https://www.studentaffairs.pitt.edu/cdpa/career-closet/](https://www.studentaffairs.pitt.edu/cdpa/career-closet/)
- University of South Carolina, [https://www.sa.sc.edu/sg/carolina-closet/](https://www.sa.sc.edu/sg/carolina-closet/)
- University of South Florida, [http://www.usf.edu/career-services/students/suit-a-bull.aspx](http://www.usf.edu/career-services/students/suit-a-bull.aspx)
- University of Tennessee at Knoxville, [https://career.utk.edu/events/smokeys-closet/](https://career.utk.edu/events/smokeys-closet/)
- University of Toledo, [Kate's Closet - University of Toledo](https://www.toledo.ohio.edu/closet/)
- University of Wisconsin - Ashkosh, [https://career.uwosh.edu/student-resources/career-closet/](https://career.uwosh.edu/student-resources/career-closet/)
● Vanderbilt University,
  https://www.vanderbilt.edu/career/commodore-closet/
● Wayne State University,
  https://ilitchbusiness.wayne.edu/news/suit-up-sba-seeks-clothing-donations-for-
  professional-dress-closet-13374
● West Virginia University,
  https://www.statler.wvu.edu/alumni-friends/corporate-relations/career-closet